

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
and the
CENTRAL DAUPHIN SCHOOL BOARD

Minutes of Joint Workshop Session held April 29, 2003

A joint workshop session with the Board of Supervisors of Lower Paxton Township and the Central Dauphin School Board was held on the above date in Room 218B of the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Building, 75 South Houcks Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

In Attendance

William Hawk, Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Gary Crissman, Board of Supervisors
William Seeds, Board of Supervisors
David Blain, Board of Supervisors
George Wolfe, Township Manager
Daniel Bair, Chief of Police
Barbara Hasson, Superintendent, Central Dauphin School District
Michael Mausner, President, Central Dauphin School Board
Helen Wagner, Central Dauphin School Board
Sharon Lucas, Central Dauphin School Board
Kathy Stone, Central Dauphin School Board
Debra LosKamp, Central Dauphin School Board

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hawk called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The proposed lease of the Central Dauphin East Junior High football field by Lower Paxton Township.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the Board had received a final draft faxed to him by Mr. Shatto, and was requesting the School Board's opinion on the final draft. Mr. Mausner noted that the final draft was tentatively approved at their April 28th meeting, and noted concern with the last minute

change requested by the Township. He questioned if the Township added the month of August to the existing months of September, October and November for the purpose of scrimmages to be held on Saturdays and Sundays in August. Mr. Seeds noted that that particular league starts their season very early. Mr. Mausner wanted to verify that the use of the fields was to be for games only. Ms. LosKamp was concerned that there could be scheduled events for the month of August that would interfere with the proposed lease agreement. Ms. LosKamp explained that the Capital Area Soccer Tournament is played on a Saturday and Sunday in August.

Mr. Seeds suggested that both parties could work around this possible scheduling conflict. Ms. Crissman suggested that the contract could include an exclusion clause for that weekend. Ms. Wagner explained that they have not scheduled the event yet, and they do not know the dates for the Soccer Tournament. Mr. Crissman suggested writing into the agreement that that weekend would be for the Soccer Tournament use only. Ms. LosKamp stated that Capital Area Soccer Association (CASA) might only use the soccer field. Ms. Wagner stated that CASA uses all the fields for the weekend of the tournament. Mr. Mausner noted that other than that one schedule conflict, everything in the lease was found to be in order.

Mr. Mausner asked Ms. LosKamp if the certificate of insurance liability for construction was received from the Township. Ms. LosKamp requested that the Township send the certificates to the Insurance Committee to be reviewed by their insurance carriers.

Mr. Mausner questioned if the Township would submit the waivers for sidewalks. Mr. Wolfe answered that the School District must submit the waivers. Mr. Hawk thanked the School Board for the endorsement of the lease agreement.

Status of the proposed School Resource Officer Program at Central Dauphin and Central Dauphin East High Schools.

Mr. Hawk noted that in light of what recently happened in the Red Lion and Mechanicsburg School Districts, he stated that this is very appropriate and important item to consider.

Chief Bair noted that the Police Department has been attempting to receive a grant for the Central Dauphin and Central Dauphin East High Schools for more than three years. He noted that in the past, most of the School Resource Officer (SRO) grants have been awarded to large city school districts. Chief Bair explained that the Police Department was able to carry over the applications from year-to-year, but the Department was just notified that the cut-off for the grant was April 27, 2003. Therefore, the Police Department would have to reapply for the SRO grants.

Chief Bair explained that the Police Department's proposal for the Central Dauphin (School District) and the Township is to co-fund two School Resource Officers, one for each high school. He noted that the cost would be $\frac{1}{2}$ of a police officers salary for a 9-month period, which would be approximately \$28,000 per school for each school term. Chief Bair explained that it would cost the School and Lower Paxton Township approximately \$14,146.00 per school for each school term.

Chief Bair noted that the SRO Program at Dauphin County Technical School has been a huge success. He explained that Officer Zuvich teaches classes on a range of subjects, and is involved in various programs, such as anger management and perfect citizenship. In addition to security, he is able to make recommendations regarding operational plans or security issues. As a result of his presence at the school, many of the students have become good friends with the members of the Police Department.

Chief Bair explained that one SRO is not the solution to all the problems occurring at the schools. He noted that there was a SRO in the Red Lion School District and, unfortunately, he was unable to prevent the incident, but was able to immediately respond to the incident within a very short period of time.

Chief Bair noted that he spoke to Congressman Holden, and Congressman Holden offered his assistance in submitting the new applications for a SRO grant. Mr. Hawk questioned if the Township would need to fund the program without any grant assistance for the next three years. Chief Bair answered that that is the case. Mr. Wolfe noted that the program, eventually, would have to be locally funded. He noted that the grant is a three-year allocation of funding that is to be absorbed by the Township and the School District when the funds are depleted. Mr. Wolfe explained that the proposal is for the Township and School District to fund the program now, in order to place a SRO in the two high schools in the fall of 2003. Mr. Wolfe noted that there are time restraints involved in completing the necessary training for two SROs for the fall of 2003. Additional officers would need to be hired to replace the SROs as well.

Ms. LosKamp questioned what would happen when Central Dauphin moves to its new location in West Hanover Township. Mr. Wolfe noted that that is an issue that would need to be addressed with the Pennsylvania State Police. Ms. LosKamp noted that this has been her concern regarding the SRO Program. Mr. Wolfe suggested that inter-municipal agreements are possible, as well as the possibility of the School District employing its own police officer. Chief Bair noted that a meeting should be held with the Pennsylvania State Police regarding this issue, since the State Police may consider using their own SRO.

Ms. Lucas questioned if the Police Department was only interested in having SROs in the high schools. Chief Bair answered yes. He explained that the Community Policing Unit is very active in school visits to the elementary schools.

Mr. Mausner noted that this is a truly worthwhile endeavor, but the budget continues to be a problem. He noted that the budget is only able to increase 2.8% this year, and 1.9% for next year. He noted that although the SRO costs represent a very insignificant amount in relation to the budget, it is significant. Mr. Mausner noted that the School District is not able to borrow any more money, and the costs continue to escalate, with no money to spare. In addition, he explained that the School Board is awaiting the Governor's Budget, as well as a legislative initiative to stop Act 50.

Mr. Mausner noted that he has seen firsthand the positive effect this program has had with the students from Dauphin County Technical School. Mr. Hawk noted that the SRO Program would continue at the Dauphin County Technical School (DCTS). Ms. LosKamp noted that the School Board has no say on the SRO Program at DCTS.

Ms. Stone offered that the School District has a Foundation, and it could be approached as a possible source of funding.

Mr. Wolfe stated that the Police Department would file the application regardless of the outcome of this meeting. Ms. LosKamp questioned if there was an interview process that could show that the Central Dauphin School District is larger than the closest city school district, and that this would be for two high schools. Mr. Wolfe answered that there is no interview process, and he noted that the funds are going to inner-city school districts.

Mr. Blain suggested that one SRO could be hired for both high schools. Ms. LosKamp noted that the School Board would need \$15,000, which they don't have.

Mr. Hawk questioned how long it would take before an award would be made. Chief Bair noted that it could take from two to three years. Mr. Hawk noted that the funding would be non-existent for more than two years. Mr. Wolfe noted the other option would be to self-fund the program. Mr. Hawk suggested tabling the issue for the present time. Dr. Hasson stated that the School Board would know if extra money would be available after the results of the November ballots regarding the referendum. Chief Bair noted that he would send two officers to the School Resource Training in the event that they could be used in the schools in the fall.

Mr. Mausner questioned if there was any funding on the county level that might be available for this. Mr. Seeds suggested that some of the other sponsoring townships and boroughs could be asked to contribute to this program. Ms. LosKamp stated that they would reply that they are paying their fair share in taxes. Mr. Hawk stated that he would check with Dauphin County to see if there would be funding available for the SRO Program, possibly, from the hotel tax fund. Mr. Mausner stated that he would contact the Township as soon as the School Board receives information regarding the Governor's budget. Mr. Hawk noted that it would be good if the School District could provide funding for the three-year program.

Mr. Seeds questioned who currently pays for Officer Zuvich's salary. Chief Bair answered that that is paid by a Universal Hiring Grant.

The remaining portion of the Leisure Tract behind Central Dauphin East Junior High School.

Mr. Mausner stated that the Central Dauphin School District (CDSB) would have to determine what land would be available, and have the land appraised before anything could be considered. Ms. LosKamp stated that the Central Dauphin School Board needs to determine if there is a possibility of any future land use for the land that is not being used. Mr. Crissman noted that he is getting a mixed message, and was under the impression that the School Board

was interested in selling some of the land. Ms. LosKamp stated that the Township just changed the zoning in that area, and this could have an impact on future building. Mr. Mausner noted that the change was to the advantage of the School District. Ms. Lucas explained that the School Board felt that the renovations to Central Dauphin East Junior High School should be considered before rendering a decision regarding the land.

Mr. Crissman stated that he heard that the School Board was ready to move forward, and only needed to do an assessment of the property before discussing the situation with the Township. Ms. Stone noted that it appears that the School Board is a bit fractured on this issue, and suggested that more discussion was needed on this issue.

Mr. Seeds stated that he heard that the School Board would rather sell the land instead of leasing it. Mr. Mausner noted that he would raise this issue at the next School Board Meeting, since the School District owns a lot of land, and it cannot continue to accumulate land for proposed future use. Mr. Mausner questioned if the School Board could contact the Township, verbally, with an answer regarding the selling of this land, instead of waiting for the next joint meeting. Mr. Crissman noted that in lieu of scheduling another meeting, the appropriate people could meet regarding this issue. Dr. Hasson noted that the School District has an old appraisal of what they paid for the land tracts. Mr. Wolfe noted that it would be good to have a copy of that appraisal in order to get an estimate of what the cost would be.

Development of additional parking at the Paxtonia ball fields in AMP Park.

Mr. Wolfe explained that Mr. Luetchford met with Mr. Bramer, and presented a plan explaining what the Township proposes to develop at the Paxtonia Elementary property for additional parking in conjunction with AMP Park. He stated that the northern portion of the proposed parking area, which is located between the old bus garage and ball field, would be

covered in gravel for this year. In addition, an improvement would be made to the radius of the entrance/exit at Nyes Road, with the addition of curbing for better alignment. He cited that accommodations would be made for the garage doors on the south side of the old bus garage. Dr. Hasson explained that Mr. Bramer had not made his presentation to the School Board yet.

Mr. Wolfe explained that the Township would like to receive the School Board's approval in order to complete this project with Township funds to provide additional parking for the Township, the Paxton Athletic Association, and the School District. Mr. Mausner noted that when a school event occurs in the evening, there is inadequate parking, and this would greatly help the situation.

Mr. Wolfe displayed a diagram, which showed the additional parking for this plan as well as the additional parking proposed for AMP Park. Mr. Wolfe explained that the Township is awaiting an Army Corps of Engineers encroachment permit for the stream and wetland area. Once this is acquired, the awarding of bids would occur, and the project could be started. He estimated the cost of the project would be \$1.2 to \$1.4 million, and expected to have usable ball fields for the spring of 2004.

Mr. Mausner questioned how many acres are involved in this project. Mr. Wolfe answered that including the area leased from the School District, Ranger Field, Lamplight Park, and the AMP Park, the area would include a total of over 51 acres.

Ms. Stone questioned how many parking spaces would be available. Mr. Wolfe answered that 50 spaces are now available, and this additional land would create 108 spaces. Mr. Wolfe noted that this would increase the total parking area to well over 300 parking spaces, with the possible expansion of another 100 parking spaces in the future.

Mr. Seeds questioned if there would be access from Nyes Road to this parking area. Mr. Wolfe explained that the existing entrance from Nyes Road would remain, but it would be reconfigured. He noted that no additional entrances from Nyes Road would be created; the traffic would loop around the proposed parking area, and used the existing exit.

Mr. Seeds questioned if the parking lot would be macadam. Mr. Wolfe answered that it would be gravel for the first year, and a 12-foot fence would be constructed in the area between the ballpark and the parking lot. Mr. Mausner noted that the School District does not own the land, but since the Township leases the land, the School Board must approve the improvements. He noted that part of the lease agreement allows the Township to maintain and do capital improvements with the approval of the School District. He explained that the additional parking spaces are needed, as well as improvements to the entrance along Nyes Road. Ms. Wagner questioned if additional lighting would be added. Mr. Wolfe answered that there would be no additional lighting. Mr. Mausner explained that the building lights provide illumination to the area.

Mr. Mausner noted that the School Board would be willing to vote on this issue at this time since it was noted that this was a meeting that business could be conducted at. Mr. Mausner made a motion that, “all School Board members who would be in favor of approving the use of this leased facility to create additional parking would signify by saying ‘aye’.” All School Board members present voted “aye,” and the motion was approved. Mr. Hawk thanked the School Board for their positive vote.

Proposal for Armed Forces Day Joint Celebration to honor the members of the community who have served in the military during the Iraq War.

Mr. Hawk explained that many people have approached the Township regarding a need to honor the soldiers who have, and are, serving their country in the war in Iraq. In response to

this appeal, the Board of Supervisors has selected the date of May 17, 2003, Armed Forces Day, to honor the residents who have served in the military. Mr. Hawk requested permission to use Landis Field on May 17, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. for this event. Mr. Seeds explained that the Township, the School District, and the American Legion would sponsor this event. It was suggested that, possibly, the school bands could perform that day, also. Dr. Hasson stated that she would check the schedule to see if the field would be available, and for the availability of the bands, and choir.

Mr. Mausner questioned who would develop the program for the day. Mr. Hawk answered that the Township would do this. Ms. LosKamp suggested that it would be good to invite both school bands and the choirs as well, if they are available. Mr. Crissman questioned if Dr. Hasson would contact Mr. Wolfe regarding the availability of the fields and the students.

Mr. Hawk suggested that the Township could complete a draft program, and then meet with Mr. Mausner to work out the details regarding the bands and the choirs. Mr. Wolfe noted that the Township would take responsibility for the publicity and sending out the invitations if the School District would coordinate the facility and the bands. Ms. Lucas suggested that a notice could be placed in the School District's Newsletter if there was available space.

Mr. Mausner questioned if the field was being used early in the day, would the Township consider scheduling the event for a later time in the day. Mr. Hawk noted that he preferred to schedule it for the morning since he would anticipate better attendance for that time period.

Mr. Seeds questioned if anyone from American Legion Post 272 had requested the School District to have their bands participate in the Annual Memorial Day Parade. He explained that last year; Bishop McDevitt's band was in the parade, but Central Dauphin did not have any representation. Dr. Hasson noted that most of the marching band events are completed in the

early part of the year, and the uniforms are packed away. Mr. Seeds requested that someone from the School District contact the American Legion regarding this event.

Ms. Stone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Heberle

Approved by,

Gary A. Crissman
Township Secretary